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Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals

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Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

Programme of Work: Taking Stock of National Legislation

Analysis of information collected via the web-based Road Signs

Management System: G and H section signs

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

This document presents the responses to questionnaire (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2018/1) related to road signs of G section, ie. Direction, position or indication signs. These responses will assist the Group of Experts in reviewing ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2017/3/Rev.1 containing amendment proposals to the Section G of Annex 1 of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals.

A commentary by the secretariat is provided, which suggests actions for the Group of Experts (text marked in bold).

The following countries provided responses: Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Kuwait, Lithuania, Slovakia and Sweden

II. Responses and commentary

1.A Question

Q.G.1 Do you believe the title of Section G should be changed from 'Direction, position or indication signs' to 'Other information signs' and that this new title for this group of signs should be used across the Convention in a consistent way?

1.B Responses

1. YES – Belgium, Lithuania (in principle, the other way forward is to name the section G ‘Other Information signs’, in this case the F section should also be changed to ‘Information, Facilities or service signs’), Kuwait, Slovakia Sweden
2. NO - Estonia
3. No opinion – Finland, France

1.C Commentary

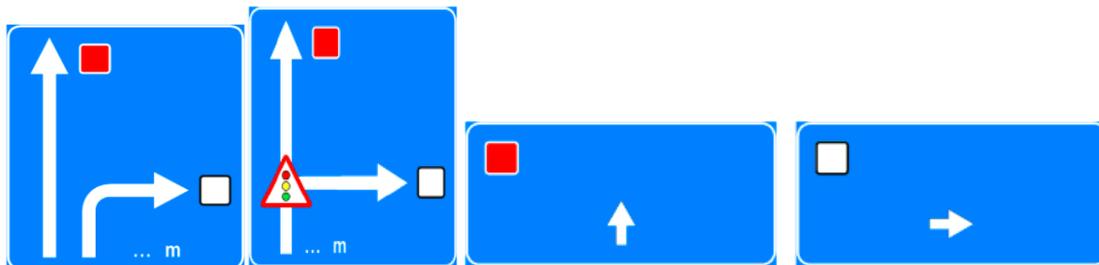
It appears that there is support to changing the title to: “Other information signs”.

2.A Question

Q.G.2. Do you think that the Convention should suggest any other types of examples for the advance direction signs than those proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2017/3/Rev.1 and for which the secretariat has developed corresponding images?

2.B Responses

1. YES – Estonia, Finland (stacked-type advance direction sign above driving lane, stacked-type sign for a roundabout, advance direction signs for exit) France (without further details),
2. NO – Belgium, Kuwait, Slovakia, Sweden
3. No comment – Lithuania
4. Suggestions from countries:
 - Estonia



2.C Commentary:

Signs as proposed by Estonia are already included as an example of G, 2 c, an example of G, 2 a, and an example of G, 3 a:



The Group of Experts should decide whether road sign variants for a roundabout sign and an advance direction sign for an exit using stacking design technique be added to the Convention.

3.A Question

Q.G.3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the images for the advance direction signs or would you like to provide better examples to the secretariat?

3.B Responses

1. YES – Estonia, Finland (further improve the design – do not introduce different principles inside one sign like in G, 2), France (without further details), Sweden (arrows to be place in one line)
2. NO – Belgium, Lithuania, Kuwait, Slovakia
3. Suggestions form countries:
 - Estonia, Sweden for G, 1 b:



3.C Commentary:

Other countries e.g. Denmark places the arrows as in the image developed for the Convention.



As the Convention does not specify the placement of the arrows, both options are possible. The comments on design will be taken into account for improving the images.

4.A Question

Q.G.4. Do you think that the Convention should suggest any other types of examples for the direction signs than those proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2017/3/Rev.1?

4.B Responses

1. YES – Denmark (direction to places of interest like parking), Finland (exit sign) France (without further details)

2. NO – Belgium, Estonia, Kuwait, Slovakia, Sweden
3. No comment - Lithuania

4.C Commentary:

As provided in ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2017/3/Rev.1, direction signs may bear signs and or symbols of facilities and services, parking, road identification, etc., hence direction signs bearing such symbols or signs are in full conformity with the Convention. The secretariat will produce such a sign.

The following image  will be replaced by image such as



The Group of Experts should decide whether the exit sign should be added to the direction signs.

5.A Questions

Q.G.5. Do you have any suggestions regarding the images for the direction signs or would you like to provide better examples to the secretariat?

5.B Responses

1. YES – Estonia, Finland (G, 5 f should not have several arrows pointing to the same direction; G, 7 with an arrow pointing down is used in countries as advance direction), France (without further details), Slovakia (suggest for all direction signs to have the distance indication after the city name)
2. NO – Belgium, Lithuania, Kuwait, Sweden
3. Suggestions from countries:
 - Estonia for G, 5 c and G, 6 a:



5.C Commentary

G, 5 f will be corrected to show only one arrow. The examples from Estonia will be taken into account for improving the images.

Regarding the use of arrows on advance direction and direction signs placed above a lane, shouldn't the difference between these types of the advance direction and the direction signs be exactly in the direction to which the arrows are pointing?

Regarding the placement of the distance indication, the Convention specifies it for the arrow-shape signs as follows: "these figures shall be placed between the place-name and the point of the arrow", hence if the Slovak proposal is supported, the text of the Convention will have to be changed.

The Group of Experts should reflect on the placement of “distance figure” in an arrow-shaped sign.

6.A Question

Q.G.6. Do you have any suggestions regarding the images for the road identification signs or would you like to provide better examples to the secretariat?

6.B Responses

1. YES – Estonia, Finland (countries also use intersection identification signs or so called exit numbers; in Finland route information to a road ahead is shown by a road identification sign with a dashed border line), France (without further details)
2. NO – Belgium, Lithuania, Kuwait, Slovakia, Sweden
3. Suggestions from countries:
 - Estonia and Finland for G, 8 b:



- Finland for exit number:



6.C Commentary

The images as provided for the road identification sign will be taken into account for improving the images. Regarding the exit sign with the number, the Group of Experts should reflect on this under Q.G.4.

7.A Question

Q.G.7. Do you have any suggestions regarding the images for the place identification signs or would you like to provide better examples to the secretariat?

7.B Responses

1. YES – Belgium (to remove place identification sign from the Convention), Estonia, Finland (E, 7 should include city silhouette in order not to be mixed with place identification sign), Sweden (same as Belgium)
2. NO – France, Lithuania, Kuwait, Slovakia
3. Suggestions from countries:
 - Estonia for G, 9:



- Finland for G, 9:



7.C Commentary

The Group of Experts may wish to reflect on the proposal from Belgium and Sweden to remove the place identification sign from the Convention. Alternatively, since this sign should differ from the sign E, 7 (built-up area), and for the latter there is no agreement on always including on it the silhouette of a built-up area, a solution could be that place identification signs are required to use some kind of symbol/silhouette of a place they identify (please see the Finnish example above for reference).

8.A Question

Q.G.8. Do you have any suggestions regarding the images for the confirmatory signs or would you like to provide better examples to the secretariat?

8.B Responses

1. YES – Estonia, Finland (both suggest to add an example with road identification signs)
2. NO – Belgium, France, Lithuania, Kuwait, Slovakia, Sweden

8.C Commentary:

The text of the Convention does not refer to a possibility of placing road identification signs on confirmatory signs.

The Group of Experts should reflect on whether placing other signs and symbols should be permitted on the confirmatory signs.

9.A Question

Q.G.9. Do you agree with the proposal of the secretariat regarding signs indicating temporary conditions due to road works or detours as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2017/3/Rev.1?

9.B Response

1. YES – Belgium, Estonia, Finland (sort of), France, Lithuania (in principle), Kuwait, Slovakia, Sweden

9.C No Commentary

10.A Question

Q.G.10. Do you have any suggestions regarding the images for these signs or would you like to provide better examples to the secretariat?

1. YES – Belgium (also add a sign of type G, 26 a with the name of a city (destination) instead of the word “detour”), Estonia (VMS and further signs should be added), Finland (G, 26 with also a symbol not only detour inscription; also suggests two more signs to be added), France (without further details), Slovakia (the word detour should not be obligatory, instead names of cities should be placed), Sweden (G, 26 a instead of detour could have name of the city; also proposes a different shape as a possibility for detour sign that would not need to bear the detour inscription; suggests two additional temporary conditions signs)

10.B Responses

2. NO – Lithuania, Kuwait

3. Suggestions from countries:

- Estonia for additional images:



- Finland for additional images:



as temporary closure of a lane



as short detour

- Sweden for G, 26 a:



- Sweden for additional images:



10.C Commentary:

The Convention permits light coloured ground (interpreted as white or yellow) for the direction signs. As a matter of fact, some countries do use that ground colour on their

regular and not temporary direction signs, for example:



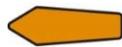
. The same

countries use then the detour sign with the detour inscription



or use an orange ground on the detour signs.

A good solution could be, in case a detour sign should not include the “detour” inscription in the national language, to use for the temporary direction signs indicating detour direction the shape as proposed by Sweden (see below) instead of the shape used for the regular direction signs.



The Group of Experts should decide on the shape for the detour direction sign. The Group of Experts should also decide which other signs should be added to the Convention as the temporary conditions signs.

11.A Question

Q.G.11. Do you have any other comments to G signs, in particular to the secretariat suggestion for new images for signs G, 11 a and G, 11 b, G, 12 a through G, 12 c, G, 20 a and G, 20 b as well as G, 21 a and G, 21 b?

11.B Responses

1. YES – Denmark (in Article 16 write: “placed near or at the intersection”; in annex 1, point V, introduce a provision for place identification sign as follows: “Place identification for the name of a river, mountain pass, viewpoint, etc. indicates location only on-site without specifying the end of the location”; re-introduce a provision in new VI confirmatory sign as follows: “Where distances are shown, the figures expressing them shall be placed after the name of the locality”; G, 1 sign should be described: also include G, 1 in the last para of Advance direction signs, as follows: “Advance direction signs G, 1, G, 2 and G, 3 may bear...”, in Annex 1, point IV add sentence that road identification signs may have a rim), Finland (in sign G, 11 arrows joining the straight lane should differ more from the straight arrows, also suggest to improve G, 12, as with the design as presented below, those who drive on the continuing lane have priority over those coming from the merging lane, in G,12c the symbol of the lane that is about to close should be shorter than the arrows of the continuing lanes, the person symbol in the signs G,20 and G,21 could be improved), Slovakia (change G, 12 to oncoming/merging lanes)

2. NO – Belgium, Estonia, France, Lithuania, Kuwait, Sweden

3. Suggestions from countries:

- Finland and Slovakia for G, 12 b:



11.C Commentary:

Following the comments received the secretariat proposes the following changes to ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2017/3/Rev.1:

Article 16, Direction signs:

Direction signs **shall be placed near or at an intersection** and may bear the names of several places.

Annex 1, Section G, II. Advance direction signs:

Sign G, 1 a and G, 1 b are examples of a general advance direction sign using a stacking design technique.

Advance direction signs ~~G, 1~~, **G, 1, G, 2 and G, 3** may bear the symbols used on other signs ~~or show other signs on a reduced scale~~ informing road users of the characteristics of the route ~~or~~, traffic conditions, **facilities and services, parking or road identification** (for example: signs A, 2; A, 5; C, 3 e; C, 6; E, 5 a; **E, 6 a; E, 14; F, 2; G, 13**). **Advance direction sign G, 4 b may bear the sign C, 11 a or C, 11 b on a reduced scale.**

Annex 1, Section G, V. Place identification signs, second paragraph:

Place identification signs for the name of a river, mountain pass or viewpoint indicate on-site point without the need to specify its end.

Annex 1, Section G, VI. Confirmatory signs, add additional paragraph:

Where distances are shown, the figures expressing them shall be indicated after the name of the place.

Moreover, the suggestions from Finland and Slovakia will be taken into account for improving the relevant sign images.

The suggestion on adding the provision that rim is optional for road identification signs is contradicting the provision of annex 1, section G, point I, paragraph 2.